(c) the steps taken or being taken for empowerment of minorities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Human Development Report, 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World parepared by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a global report underlining the need for respecting diversity and building.more inclusive socities by adopting policies that explicitly recognize cultural differences. The report itself recognizes the constitutional and legal safeguard provided for minorities in India.

Backward classes among minorities

2485. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backward class people among minorities indicating the reasons for their backwardness

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government for removal of their backwardness;

(c) whether Government would keep in mind both of these points while providing reservation to the minorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) Some minority communities are notified in the list of other Backward Classes. The benefits given to backward classes are also available to the minority community.

Representation from minority community

2486. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from minority community leaders stating that some State Governments are enacting laws impinging upon the minority rights enshrined in the constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Both Government and National Commission for Minorities have received some representations. The Government have taken up the matter with the State Governments and the National Commission for Minorities has urged the State Governments to ensure that the rights of the minorities guaranteed in the Constitution are not infringed.

Implementation of action plan for electricity and cooking Bio-gas

†2487. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether action plan is being implemented to make available electricity and cooking bio-gas, under rural electricity project, to remotely inhabited villages of various States of the country under non-conventional renewable energy projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the names of the States alongwith the number of villages wherein electricity and bio-gas were provided under the said project as on date during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Test projects on village energy security are being implemented for meeting the total energy needs including cooking, electricity and motive power of remote, unelectrified villages/hamlets. 83 Test Projects in 12 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh (2 nos.), Assam (14 nos.), Chhattisgarh (9 nos), Gujarat (3 nos.) Jharkhand (1no.), Madhya Pradesh (15 mos.), Maharashtra (7 nos.) , Orissa (10 nos.), Rajastjan (6 nos.), Tamil Nadu (4 nos.), Uttaranchal; (5 nos.) and West Bengal (7 nos.) have so far been taken up since inception of the programme in 2004-05. In all these projects, the energy production systems include biomass gasifiers for electricity generation and biogas plants for cooking energy.

In addition, during the last three years, 1287 remote villages were electrified in 12 States under the Remote Village Electrification Programme

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.